

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

FROM: Tulsi Oberbeck, Director, Governmental Relations
Kathleen Ligon, Senior Policy Analyst, Governmental Relations

DATE: November 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Legislative Priorities Report for the 85th Texas Legislative Session

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the Legislative Priorities Report for the 85th Texas Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND

Texas Water Code §6.156 requires that the Board make a biennial report to the governor and members of the legislature that includes a statement of the Board's activities and recommendations for necessary and desirable legislation.

KEY ISSUES

The 2016 TWDB Legislative Priorities report includes a brief introduction and recap of recent TWDB activities in addition to the following four legislative recommendations:

- The legislature should designate the five river or stream segments of unique ecological value recommended by the 2016 regional water plans (Alamito Creek, Black Cypress Bayou, Black Cypress Creek, Pecan Bayou, and Terlingua Creek) for protection under Texas Water Code §16.051(f).
- The legislature should designate for protection under Texas Water Code §16.051(g) three sites of unique value for the construction of reservoirs as recommended in the 2016 regional water plans: Coryell County Off-Channel Reservoir, Millers Creek Off-Channel Reservoir, and Parkhouse II (North).
- The legislature should require that the next set of desired future conditions be adopted collectively by the district representatives of each groundwater management area by January 5, 2022, and every five years thereafter and require that the regional water plans under development as of that same date be consistent with those adopted desired future conditions in effect on that date.

Our Mission

To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas

Board Members

Bech Bruun, Chairman | Kathleen Jackson, Board Member | Peter Lake, Board Member
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

- The legislature should enact statutory provisions to reflect changes in federal law regarding the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), including a maximum loan term of up to 30 years.

The first three recommendations were also included in the 2017 State Water Plan as adopted by the Board in May.

In conjunction with these legislative priorities, the report also includes narrative summaries of the TWDB's Exceptional Item Requests included in the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request for Fiscal Years 2018–2019. These requests include:

1. Economically Distressed Areas Program Debt Service (\$9,674,583)
2. Centralized Accounting and Payroll/Personnel System (CAPPS) Implementation (\$1,733,200)
3. Continuation of Flood Funding (\$12,458,000)
4. Secure Long Term funding for Existing Operations (\$5,669,316)
5. Restore Fiscal Year 18/19 Four Percent Reductions (\$2,122,140)

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends approval of this item.

Attachment:

Legislative Priorities Report
85th Legislative Session